

# Chocolate - Don't put your pets at risk

**Theobromine or chocolate poisoning** is one of the most commonly encountered poisonings in pet dogs and cats. The first signs of chocolate poisoning are **vomiting, diarrhoea and nausea followed by heart problems and seizures, the severity of symptoms depending on the type of chocolate and amount consumed.**

**If you think your pet may have chocolate poisoning get them to a vet straight away.**

If your pet has consumed chocolate but has not been ill you may think that they are not affected. This is not true as chocolate can cause long term problems that may not be apparent immediately and advice should still be sought.

**The only real solution is not to give your pet chocolate at all.**

Christmas and Easter are the prime times for poisoning due to increased amounts of chocolate in the household

Keep chocolate out of the pets reach including the less obvious sources such as Christmas tree decorations, **be aware of canine thieves!** Make sure children are not feeding chocolate to pets too.

If you feel your pet is missing out by not being allowed chocolate then source some special dog chocolate available in pet shops.

The same can happen to pets that eat grapes or raisins – although the symptoms may not be readily apparent.

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